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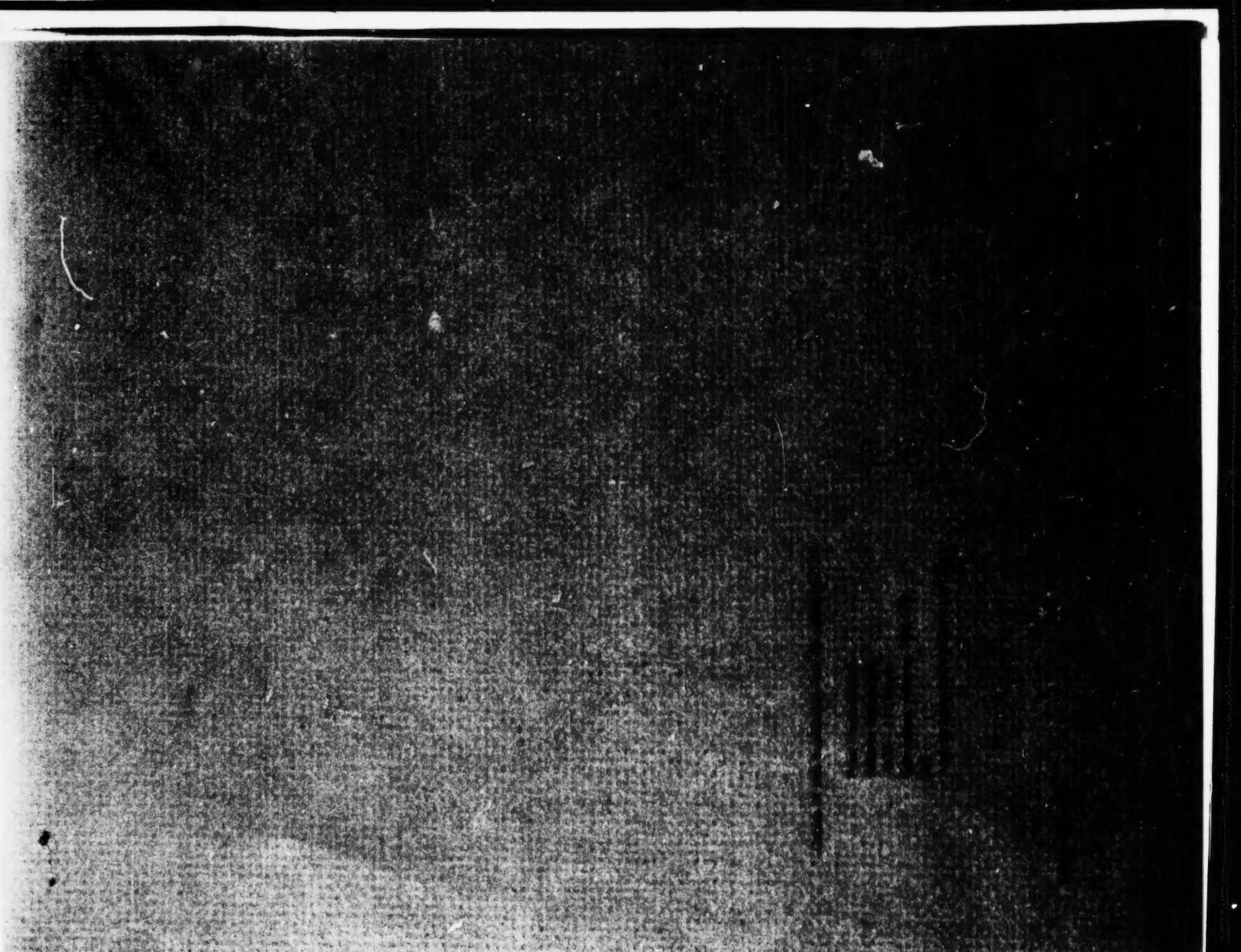
ALBERTA CERTIFIED PRECONDITIONED FEEDER PROGRAM

1988 ANNUAL REPORT



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ALBERTA CERTIFIED PRECONDITIONED FEEDER PROGRAM

1982 ANNUAL REPORT

Summary

1. A total of 16,256 calves were certified and 8,154 were sold through 14 monitored sales in 9 locations in 1982. This was an increase over 1981 when 7,113 calves were certified and 5,095 sold through 7 monitored sales in 4 locations.

2. Price comparisons were made on 68.8% of the certified calves sold in 1982. The price premiums were $5.56/cwt for preconditioned steers, $5.74 for preconditioned heifers, $3.61 for preimmunized steers and $1.87 for preimmunized heifers.

3. Producer data indicated a net return for preconditioned calves from $13.45/calf to $80.52/calf.

4. Health performance data was collected by questionaire on 41.8% of the calves sold in 1982. The analysis of the complete data indicated that the treatment rate for preconditioned calves was one-half that for regular calves. The trend was for death losses to be less in preconditioned calves. Preimmunized calves were intermediate in both respects.

Introduction

Preconditioning can be defined as a program to minimize the economic loss caused by stress and disease during the movement of calves from the cow herd to the feedlot. Calves which are weaned, started on feed and vaccinated by the producer, should be better prepared to withstand this stress.

The practise of preconditioning began in Iowa in the late 1960's. Dr. John Herrick, and the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association were largely responsible for it's development and success. By 1969, the first year of the state-wide program 61,000 calves were preconditioned. The program is now under the direction of the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association and the Iowa Cattlemens Association. In 1981, 600,000 calves were preconditioned. With a cow herd of 1.8 million head this represents a significant portion of the calves, raised in Iowa, being preconditioned.

ALBERTA CERTIFIED PRECONDITIONED FEEDER PROGRAM - 1982

Background

The majority of calves produced in Alberta are raised in herds of 50 cows or less. Calves are usually marketed through sale yards the day they are weaned. Feedlot operators find it necessary to purchase many small groups of calves from several sources over several days. The stress associated with such practices increases the possibility of disease occurence. Stress related diseases account for more than 75% of the annual cattle losses in feedlots.

Preconditioning is not new to many Alberta producers. The practices associated with preconditioning are sound management practices. Organized sales of preconditioned calves have been tried in the past at various locations in Alberta with little success. Without a sound guarantee that the practices have been done by the producer,feeders were unwilling to pay a premium.

The Alberta Certified Preconditioned Feeder (ACPF) Program operates as a pilot project of Alberta Agriculture. The program developed from a series of meetings held in the County of Ponoka during the spring of 1980. Representatives of the cattle industry and Alberta Agriculture drafted the initial guidelines for the program. Meetings were held with calf producers in the Ponoka area to explain the guidelines and discuss the concept. A group of interested producers formed a local society and held their first sale November 8, 1980.

The program expanded to the Fort MacLeod, Rocky Mountain House and Grande Prairie areas in 1981. A total of 7,113 calves were tagged and certified. Approximately 5,100 head sold at 7 monitored sales in these 4 locations.

In 1981, an Advisory Committee was established by Ministerial Order to provide guidance and authority in the operation of the program. Representation on the committee consists of 3 representatives of Alberta Agriculture, one from the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, one from Alberta Cattle Feeders Association and three cattle producers.

Program requirements and operating guidelines are recommended to the Minister of Agriculture by the Committee.

A.C.P.F. Program Requirements

The A.C.P.F. Program included two options in 1982 to accomodate a greater number of calf producers. These options were: Preimmunized and Preconditioned. The requirements for each of the options are listed below. Other vaccinations, management practices and information on the feeding program and breeding background can be recorded on the certificates.

A.C.P.F. Program Requirements - Preimmunized Option

Calves must be:

1. At least 4 months of age prior to being vaccinated.
2. Owned by the operator 60 days prior to sale or shipment.
3. Castrated and dehorned at least 3 weeks prior to sale or shipment.
4. Vaccinated with IBR - PI_3 and multi-Clostridial (8 way) vaccine 3 weeks prior to sale or shipment.
5. Treated for warble grubs at least 3 weeks prior to sale or shipment.
6. Accompanied by an official A.C.P.F. certificate completed and signed by both a veterinarian and the producer.
7. Tagged with an official A.C.P.F. white tag applied under the supervision of a licenced veterinarian.

A.C.P.F. Program Requirement - Preconditioned Option

The same requirements for the Preimmunized option with the following additions:

1. Calves must be weaned from the cows at least 30 days prior to sale or shipment.
2. Tagged with an official ACPF green tag applied under supervision of a licenced veterinarian.

Administration of the A.C.P.F. Program

The Preventive Medicine Branch, Animal Health Division, Alberta Agriculture was responsibile for the administration of the program. Eartags and certificates are issued to practicing veterinarians by the Branch. Several District Agriculture offices were designated as depots for tags and certificates. This allowed for faster distribution of the materials and local coordination of the program by those involved. Upon completion of the certificate, one copy is returned to the Branch where it is held on file.

The certificates and the tags were provided at no charge in 1980, 1981 and 1982. In addition one visit by a veterinarian to each certified herd was provided by Alberta Agriculture in 1980 and 1981. A limit of two paid visits per herd was applied in 1982.

A.C.P.F. - Advisory Committee Program Changes

Each year at the annual meeting, Advisory Committee representatives have the opportunity to propose and discuss changes to the program requirements. Changes accepted in 1982 were:

1. The clostridial vaccine was changed from 2-way to 8-way.
2. The minimum time required for warble treatment was changed from 2 weeks to 3 weeks prior to sale or shipment.

Two other proposals which received much discussion but were not accepted were:

1. The use of ITEME and B.V.D. vaccines in the program.
2. Extending the minimum weaning period from 30 days.

The Committee also recommended that Alberta Agriculture pay for one veterinary visit per year for a maximum of two years. This was implemented in 1982.

Program Operation

The successful operation of the Program in an area is dependent upon the interest and cooperation of the producers, veterinarians, auction market operators and Alberta Agriculture staff. Each of these groups has a specific responsibility in the program. An overview of the responsibilities of each participant is provided in Table 1.

Table. 1. RESPONSIBILITES OF VARIOUS A.C.P.F. PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Participant	Responsible to	Responsibilities
Producer	Veterinarian	Schedule visits well in advance to insure necessary supplies.
	Auction Market	Assist in administration of sale where sale is sponsored by producer group. Consign cattle early enough for proper sale promotion.
	Alberta Agriculture	Provide production information on performance of preconditioned calves.
Veterinarian	Producer	Process, inspect and certify calves.
	Alberta Agriculture	Administer local tag and certificate allocation.
		Properly complete certificate.
		Provide completed certificate early enough so that sales catalogue can be developed.
		Send copies of completed certificates to Animal Health Division.
Auction Market	Producer	Properly promote sale to potential buyers.

	Alberta Agriculture	Administer delivery of certificate and feedlot evaluation to buyers.
		Provide information on sale prices and names and addresses of buyers.
Alberta Agriculture	Producer	Promote and coordinate.
		Assist in gathering economic data.
	Veterinarian	Order tags and certificates.
	Auction Market	Prepare sale catalogue.
		Assist in administration of the program.

A.C.P.F. Research Trials

Even after 15 years of preconditioning experience in North America little factual information on the costs and benefits of preconditioning is available. One of the objectives of the A.C.P.F. committee was to initiate trials that would increase the knowledge of the effects of preconditioning in beef cow herds. A number of projects were started in 1982 to provide this information.

Trial #1 - Performance of Preconditioned Calves on Ranches

Two calf producers with crossbred cow herds agreed to participate in this trial. One producer was located in the heavier rainfall, foothill area of West Central Alberta, while the other was located in the short grass area of east-central Alberta. The project was designed to measure the effects of preconditioning on both calves and cows over two production cycles.

Each producer allotted 100 cows to the trial. Fifty cows in each herd are randomly allotted to the preconditioned treatment using A.C.P.F. requirements. The remaining 50 cows will be treated and handled in the operator's usual management routine. When the preconditioned calves are weaned, all cows and calves will be individually weighed. They will be reweighed at the end of the preconditioning period.

Information will be recorded on cow weight changes, calf weight changes and feed consumed by the weaned calves over the preconditioning period. Data will be recorded on calving dates, number of cows calving and reasons for cow removals from the herd.

Trial #2 - U. of A. Effects of Preconditioning on Cow and Calf Productivity

Five hundred cow calf pairs are randomly allotted to either an early fall weaning or late fall weaning group. All cows and calves will be individually weighed at the start of the trial. Weight changes for cows and calves, over the period, will be recorded. In the second year, half of each group will be randomly allotted creep rations 30 days prior to weaning. Amount of creep and precondition rations consumed will be recorded. Cow productivity in subsequent years will be recorded.

Trial #3 - Economics and Performance of Preconditioned Calves in the Feedlot

A co-operating cattle feeder will purchase 100 preconditioned and 100 regular calves from the two co-operating calf producers, in trial #1.

All calves in both groups will be individually weighed at the farm of origin, upon arrival at the feedlot and in 60 days after entering the feedlot. Preconditioned and regular calves will be penned and fed separately and individual gains, health performance data and group feed consumptions will be recorded.

1982 A.C.P.F. PROGRAM RESULTS

A.C.P.F. Program Expansion

The Program showed a healthy growth in 1982. A total of 16,256 calves were certified and 8,154 were sold through 14 monitored sales in 9 locations in 1982.(Table 2) This was an increase over 1981 when 7,113 calves were certified and 5,095 sold in 7 monitored sales at 4 locations and 1980 when 1,404 calves were certified and 1,300 sold through 1 sale at Ponoka.

TABLE 2

NUMBER OF A.C.P.F. CALVES CERTIFIED AND SOLD FROM 1980 - 1982

YEAR	# LOCATIONS	# SALES	PRECONDITIONED CERTIFIED	PRECONDITIONED SOLD	PRE-IMMUNIZED CERTIFIED	PRE-IMMUNIZED SOLD	TOTAL CERTIFIED	TOTAL SOLD
1980	1	1	867	900	537	400	1404	1300
1981	4	7	5317	4014	1796	1081	7113	5095
1982	9	14	11594	6339	4662	1815	16256	8154
TOTAL	14	22	17778	11253	6995	3296	24773	14549

Table 3 provides a more detailed listing by location, of A.C.P.F.sales in 1982. New sales added were Olds, Didsbury, Wainwright, Edmonton and Fairview. In addition, 2 sales were scheduled at Clyde but were cancelled following a fire on November 3, 1982 which destroyed the market. The largest area of growth has been in west-central Alberta. It is anticipated that most growth in 1983 will be in the area north of Edmonton and the Peace River area.

Several sales in 1981 and 1982 included calves from British Columbia certified under the program. In 1982 calves from Saskatchewan were also certified and sold at sales in Alberta. Inquiries from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba about starting their own certified programs have been received. Manitoba is interested in adopting the A.C.P.F. program and using similar certificates and tags.

Negotiations are presently under way with Consumer and Corporate Affairs to have the program registered under the Trade Marks Act. Registration of the program, logo and title will insure that programs adopted by other Provinces are consistent with the A.C.P.F. Program. This will reduce the problem of having calves treated differently under programs administered in other Provinces. The objective is to have a consistent program throughout Canada.

TABLE 3

Number of Certified Calves Sold by Location in 1982

LOCATION	DATE	PROGRAM OPTION P.I.	P.C.
Fort Macleod	Oct. 14	241	
Fort Macleod	Oct. 27	148	
Didsbury	Oct. 30	173	
Fort Macleod	Nov. 04	520	417
Ponoka	Nov. 06	415	225
Olds	Nov. 08	72	20
Fort Macleod	Dec. 02		90
Rocky Mountain House	Dec. 03		532
Ponoka	Dec. 04	204	1103
Grande Prairie	Dec. 06		1785
Olds	Dec. 06	42	254
Fairview	Dec. 08		423
Edmonton	Dec. 10		1011
Wainwright	Dec. 11		479
TOTAL		1815	6339
COMBINED TOTAL		8154	

Sale Price Differentials

Price comparisons were done on 7 of 14 sales held in 1982. These sales included 5,609 head of certified calves or 68.8% of certified calves sold in 1982. A summary of the weighted average prices and the price differentials between A.C.P.F. calves and regular calves is provided in Table 4. The complete data is presented in Appendix A. The weighted average mean prices for various weight categories were obtained from the Canfax program operated at several auction markets in Alberta. Price differentials were determined for each weight category by calculating the difference between weighted average prices of A.C.P.F. calves and regular calves from comparison sales. Weighted prices were calculated only where 20 or more animals were sold in a weight category. Prices at sales, at the same location, the week prior and the week after the A.C.P.F. sale were used as comparison sales. Sales at Fort MacLeod only compared A.C.P.F. calves to regular calves sold at the same sale.

In 1982, the average price differential for 2,827 preconditioned steer calves was $5.56/cwt and for 1,683 preconditioned heifers $5.74/cwt. Similarily, differentials on preimmunized calves were $3.61/cwt for steers and $1.87/cwt for heifers. Differentials were less during the earlier sales when prices were depressed because of market uncertainities. Price differentials were stronger in the later sales. Sales at Grande Prairie and Fairview had good buyer support from central and southern feeders. The lower weighted average price at these sales reflected differences in transportation costs from these locations to central and southern feeders.

TABLE 4

SUMMARY OF WEIGHTED AVERAGE MEAN PRICES AND
PRICE DIFFERENTIALS FOR A.C.P.F. CALVES - 1982

LOCATION	Date	STEERS No. Head	STEERS Price Ave.	STEERS Price Diff.	HEIFERS No. Head	HEIFERS Price Ave.	HEIFERS Price Diff.
Preconditioned Sales							
Fort Macleod	Nov.4	197	84.21	2.81	213	76.33	6.70
Ponoka	Nov.6	106	83.12	3.56	119	69.48	2.85
Rocky Mountain House	Dec.3	188	85.80	5.56	189	75.44	8.24
Ponoka	Dec.4	547	84.96	6.15	553	74.23	6.13
Grande Prairie	Dec.6	1037	80.80	9.34	318	66.25	6.15
Fairview	Dec.8	122	77.48	5.54			
Edmonton	Dec.10	630	82.26	5.97	291	71.92	4.34
Total Number		2827			1683		
Average Price			82.66	5.56		72.28	5.74
Preimmunized Sales							
Fort Macleod	Nov.4	338	82.61	1.21	174	68.32	-1.31
Ponoka	Nov.6	230	82.93	3.84	185	69.80	3.26
Ponoka	Dec.4	90	85.09	5.77	82	72.89	3.65
Total Number		658			441		
Average Price			83.54	3.61		70.34	1.87

Price differentials received for three years of the A.C.P.F. program are compared in Table 5. The price differentials for the 1982 sales were similar to previous years.

Price premiums of preconditioned calves were greater than for preimmunized calves in 1982 than in previous years. Apparently cattle feeders are beginning to recognize the advantages of the weaned calves.

Economics of Preconditioning

Each year data has been collected from a number of farms preconditioning calves. Information from 1982 is presented by producer in Table 6. There was a wide variation in production data, costs and net returns. Net returns varied from $13.45/calf to $80.52 depending upon management practices used.

Net returns were calculated by subtracting the added costs of preconditioning from the added returns. Initial calf prices were estimated from actual sale prices adjusted for price premiums received in the area. They therefore do not reflect changes in market prices over the preconditioning period. This method of economic comparison does not consider as an alternative keeping the calf on the cow for a similar time period. To assist individuals investigating this possibility an equivalent unweaned calf gain value was calculated and reported in Table 6. This figure represents the gain an unweaned calf would have to achieve to result in an equivalent net return over a similar period. As an example, unweaned calves in situation C would have to gain 2.27 lb/day to give the same net return as the preconditioned calf ($71.45/calf).

TABLE 5

COMPARISONS OF YEARLY PRICE DIFFERENTIALS
RECEIVED FOR A.C.P.F. CALVES, 1980-1982

		STEERS		HEIFERS	
YEAR	No. SALES	No. HEAD	PRICE DIFFERENTIAL	No. HEAD	PRICE DIFFERENTIAL
PRECONDITIONED					
1980	1	495	5.66	223	4.04
1981	6	2518	4.04	1496	2.66
1982	7	2827	5.56	1683	5.74
Average			5.09		4.15
PREIMMUNIZED					
1980	1	217	4.26	131	8.03
1981	5	748	2.34	333	0.39
1982	3	658	3.61	441	1.87
Average			3.40		3.43

TABLE 6

PERFORMANCE AND ECONOMIC DATA FROM PRODUCERS OF PRECONDITIONED CALVES, 1982

Production and Economic Data	A	B	C	D
No. head - steers	86	174	38	33
- heifers	76	16	11	17
No. days	57	43	51	47
Initial weight (lb.)	329	400	540	472
Final weight (lb.)	425	448	645	583
A.D.G.(lb/day)	1.69	1.1	2.06	1.36
Feed conversion (lb D.M./lb gain)	6.5	6.0	7.87	8.60
Calf price* - initial (¢/lb)	75.70	79.97	77.29	74.02
- sale (¢/lb)	80.33	83.11	83.43	80.16
Economic Analysis				
Costs - ($/hd)				
- Initial calf prices	249.05	319.88	417.37	349.37
- Interest on calf (16%)	6.22	6.02	9.32	7.19
- Feed (as per owner)	45.24	26.00	28.34	19.20
- Yardage (15¢/hd/day)	5.68	3.98	7.64	7.05
- Other	10.09	3.00	4.00	4.00
- Total	316.28	358.88	466.67	386.81
Return - ($/hd)	341.40	372.33	538.12	467.33
Net Return - ($/hd)	25.12	13.45	71.45	80.52
Equivalent** Unweaned Calf gain	0.95	0.78	2.27	2.75

* calf price - sale -actual weighed average price received.
- initial - sale prices minus the price premium for the area.

** unweaned calf gain to give the same net return as preconditioned calf.

*** costs - interest 16%
- pasture $10/A.U.M.

Values ranged from 0.78 to 2.75 lb/day. Previously collected data suggests that calf gains during this period range from 0.50 lb/day in Southern Alberta to 1.50 lb/day in Central and Northern Alberta on typical nature pastures. This data represents averages and individual farms may have gains that differs from these.

Because individual operations are different, an economic model was developed to assist individuals calculate their own potential net returns from their own production and economic data. Table 7 illustrates an example using this model. The net return in this example was estimated to be approximately $50/calf. A more detailed exploration of the model is contained in the publication "Preconditioning Will it Pay the Producer as well as the Feeder" an Alberta Agriculture publication, Agdex 20/662-3.

Health Performance of A.C.P.F. Calves

Health performance data of A.C.P.F. calves was collected by a questionaire given to each purchaser of Certified calves at the time of sale. A sample of the questionaire is contained in Appendix A. Purchasers were asked to complete the questionaire and return it by mail. As many of of the purchasers as possible were contacted by phone to remind them of the questionaire. Alberta Agriculture staff visited many of the feeding locations in Alberta. Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food staff were asked to follow up on calves sold to Ontario. Ninety three questionaires were completed and returned. Information was obtained on 3,412 head of Certified calves or 41.8% of the calves sold in 1982.

TABLE 7

AN EXAMPLE OF AN ECONOMIC MODEL
TO DETERMINE NET RETURN FOR PRECONDITONED CALVES

FACTORS AFFECTED	ASSUMPTIONS MADE	CALF WT. (lb)	RETURNS ($)
Returns			
1. Increased Weaning Weight	- 30 day preconditioning period - 450 lb. weaning weight - 3% increase in % weaning	13.5	
	- 5 day older calf	11.25	
TOTAL	- 70¢/lb calf price	24.75	17.32
2. Increased Sale Weight	- regular calf 1.0 lb/day gain 8% shrink	38.7	26.46
	- P.C. calf 2.0 lb/day - 6% shrink		
3. Price Premium	- P.C. calf 6¢/lb more than regular		28.76
4. Increased Carrying Capacity	- pasture cost $10/AUM - unweaned calf 0.5 A.U.		5.00
GROSS RETURN			77.54
Costs			
1. Feed, vaccine, insecticide	- grain $120/T - hay $80/T - 2.0 lb/day gain - 8/1 conversion - $4/calf vaccine insecticide, labor costs		28.80
NET RETURN			49.54

Mr. John Basarab, Research Analyst, Livestock and Sheep Branch of Alberta Agriculture conducted the analysis on the data. The data collected was compiled in three ways before analysis. Table 8 summarizes all of the data collected in 1982. Data from only those feeders which purchased preconditioned, preimmunized and regular comparison calves is presented in Table 9. Table 10 includes only data from those who purchased only preconditioned and regular calves. Cattle which were mass treated were not included in the data analysis because it couldn't be determined from the questionaires whether mass treatment was used for disease prevention or treatments.

Although most of the differences in treatment rate were not statistically significant, the data does indicate a trend. Preconditioned calves whether fed in Alberta or Ontario had approximately one half the numbers of treatments compared to regular calves. Differences were significant in Alberta feedlots which purchased preconditioned and regular calves (Table 10). Preimmunized calves were more variable but tended to be intermediate between preconditioned and regular calves. These trends are similar to the health performance in 1980 and 1981 as reported in Table 11.

Death loss data is difficult to interpret when there are small numbers of animals in some categories. Differences in death loss between the types of calves were small and not statistically significant. However there appeared to be a trend to less death losses in preconditioned calves.

Adaption of calves to feed was scored from 1, for no problems to 4, for major problems. As would be expected weaned, preconditioned calves adapted to feed better than other calves.

Table 11 compares the health performance of certified calves and regular calves by year. The combined data indicates that the Certified calves have a better health performance record than regular calves. Within the Certified group preconditioned calves outperformed the preimmunized calves. The difference between Certified calves and regular calves was greater in Ontario than in Alberta, while Certified calves had about equal performance in Alberta and Ontario.

The questionaire also provided space for comments on the A.C.P.F. program. A listing of these comments is given in Appendix B. In general, feeders appear to be pleased with the program. A few recommended changes that they felt might improve the program. No major problems were noted.

TABLE 8

HEALTH PERFORMANCE OF ALL A.C.P.F. CALVES SURVEYED IN 1982

Program Type	Number of Lots	Number of Animals	Percent[1] Treated	Percent[1] Died	Feed[1, 2] Adaptation
Alberta[3]					
Preconditioned	65	2,724	7.3	0.5	1.20[a]
Preimmunized	18	373	11.3	1.8	1.76b
Regular Auction	39	3,269	15.5	2.0	1.50ab
SEM[5]			2.6	0.6	0.12*
Ontario[4]					
Preconditioned	7	186	8.3	0.3	1.00
Preimmunized	6	129	19.0	2.8	1.60
Regular Auction	6	907	18.8	0.4	1.00
SEM[5]			5.3	1.5	0.40

1 Percent treated and died and feed adaptation were analyzed by a weighted least squares analysis of variance using the number of animals per lot as the weight variable.

2 Feed adaptation was coded as 1 for no problems to 4 for major problems.

3 All calves were shipped to their feeding location by truck.

4 All calves were shipped to their feeding location by truck and/or train.

5 Standard error of the means.

a,b means within each column within province indicate a significant difference: * $P<0.05$.

TABLE 9

HEALTH PERFORMANCE OF A.C.P.F. CALVES IN FEEDLOTS WHICH PURCHASED PRECONDITIONED, PREIMMUNIZED AND REGULAR CALVES IN 1982

Program Type	Number of Lots[2]	Number of Animals	Percent[1] Treated	Percent[1] Died	Feed[1,3] Adaptation
Alberta[4]					
Preconditioned	8	270	4.9	0.5	1.25[a]
Preimmunized	8	95	9.0	3.6	1.75[a]
Regular Auction	8	436	16.6	2.7	3.00[b]
SEM[6]			5.4	2.2	0.39*
Ontario[5]					
Preconditioned	4	127	14.5	0.5	1.00
Preimmunized	4	77	23.8	4.2	1.67
Regular Auction	4	655	20.3	0.4	1.00
SEM[6]			7.4	2.4	0.53

[1] Percent treated and died and feed adaptation were analyzed by a weighted least squares analysis of variance using the number of animals per lot as the weight variable.

[2] The data only included those lots of calves in which a purchaser bought lots from each program type and shipped them to the same feeding location.

[3] Feed adaptation was coded as 1 for no problems to 4 for major problems.

[4] All calves were shipped to their feeding location by truck.

[5] All calves were shipped to their feeding location by truck and/or train.

[6] Standard error of the mean.

[a,b] means in each column within province indicate a significant difference: *$P<0.05$.

TABLE 10

HEALTH PERFORMANCE OF A.C.P.F. CALVES IN FEEDLOT
WHICH PURCHASED PRECONDITIONED AND REGULAR CALVES IN 1982

Program Type	Number[2] of lots	Number of Animals	Percent[1] Treated	Percent[1] Died	Feed[1 3] Adaptation
Alberta[4]					
Preconditioned	34	1,674	5.9	0.4	1.15
Regular Auction	34	2,858	15.2	1.9	1.50
SEM[6]			2.3*	0.4*	0.13
Ontario[5]					
Preconditioned	5	141	11.6	0.4	1.00
Regular Auction	5	898	20.4	0.4	1.00
SEM[6]			5.9	0.3	0.0

[1] Percent treated and died and feed adaptation were analyzed by a weighted least squares analysis of variance using the number of animals per lot as the weight variable.

[2] The data only included those lots of calves in which a purchaser bought one lot from each program type and shipped them to the same feeding location.

[3] Feed adaptation was coded as 1 for no problems to 4 for major problems.

[4] All calves were shipped to their feeding location by truck.

[5] All calves were shipped to their feeding location by truck and/or train.

[6] Standard error of the means. Asterisks in each column within province indicate a significant difference: *$P<0.05$.

TABLE 11

HEALTH PERFORMANCE OF A.C.P.F. CALVES - 1981-1982[1]

	Preconditioned			Preimmunized			Regular		
	No. Calves	% Treated	% Died	No. Calves	% Treated	% Died	No. Calves	% Treated	% Died
Alberta[3]									
1980	236	7.6	0.0	195	17.4	0.5	1008	18.7	1.0
1981	1513	17.9	1.2	190	15.8	1.6	627	26.8	1.0
1982	2724	7.3	0.5	373	11.3	1.8	3269	15.5	2.0
Average[2]	4473	10.9	0.7	758	14.0	1.4	4904	17.6	1.7
Ontario[3]									
1980	213	12.0	0.6	196	26.0	0.0	770	46.0	1.0
1981	139	11.5	0.0	104	8.7	0.0	109	20.2	0.9
1982	186	8.3	0.3	129	19.0	2.8	907	18.8	0.4
Average[2]	538	10.6	0.3	429	19.7	0.8	1786	30.6	0.7
Combine Location	5011	10.9	0.6	1187	16.1	1.2	6690	21.1	1.4

1. - complete data from each year was used.

2. - averages weighted for number of calves.

3. - feeding location

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Animal Health Division

CERTIFIED PRECONDITIONED FEEDER PROGRAM

APPENDIX A

FEEDLOT HEALTH & PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

A. PURCHASE INFORMATION

Purchaser or Feeder — Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

Sale Location _____ Sale Date _____

Please indicate whether calves were bought by:

Feeder Directly _____ Order Buyer _____ Other _____

Preconditioned (Green)		Preimmunized (White)	
PURCHASED FROM	NO. OF HEAD	PURCHASED FROM	NO. OF HEAD

B. SHIPPING INFORMATION

Cattle left sales yards: Date _____ Time _____

Cattle arrived at destination: Date _____ Time _____

Location: _____

Shipped by: Truck _____ Rail _____

Condition on arrival: _____

Comments: _____

_____

C. PLEASE RATE HOW THE PREIMMUNIZED, PRECONDITIONED OR REGULAR CATTLE STARTED ON FEED AND WATER:

	PREIMMUNIZED	PRECONDITIONED	REGULAR
No problem (majority did not walk fence, adapted readily)			
Few problems (few walked fence, less 10% digestive problems)			
Problems (majority did not eat, 10-50% digestive problems)			
Major problems (extreme difficulty adjusting to feed)			
Finding and drinking water			

D. HEALTH RECORD

	PREIMMUNIZED	PRECONDITIONED	REGULAR
Number Purchased			
Number Treated (first treatments only)			
Number Died			

Comments: _____

_____

_____

E. PERFORMANCE RECORD

If available, please record the following information:

	PRECONDITIONED CATTLE	PREIMMUNIZED CATTLE	REGULAR OR COMPARISON CATTLE
Purchase Weight			
No. Head Purchased			
Group Arrival Weight			
No. Head			
Date Weighed (6 wks after arrival)			
Group Weight			
No. Head			

Comments: _____

_____

_____

Please complete for the first six weeks you have fed the cattle and return to:

Preventive Medicine Branch
3rd Floor, O.S. Longman Building
P.O. Box 8070, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 4N9

DAILY HEALTH RECORD SHEET

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Animal Health Division

SICK RECORD

DATE	TAG NUMBER	STATUS P.C./P.I./or REGULAR	CONDITION TREATED	NUMBER TREATMENTS REQUIRED	OUTCOME

DEATH LOSS RECORD

DATE	TAG NUMBER	STATUS P.C./P.I./or REGULAR	REASON FOR DEATH OR CONDITION TREATED	COMMENTS

(If more spaces are required, please use an additional sheet)

APPENDIX B

Certified Preconditioned Feeder Program - Feedlot Health & Performance Evaluation

Comments: From Fort Macleod, November 4, 1982

_ Would buy again - would like to get a whole lot full of preconditioned calves as its hard to treat a few head in a lot differently.

Would be nice to be able to choose calves which fit easily into your feeding system (is approx. the same rations).

Three weeks after weaning absolutely the worst time to be shipping cattle.

- P.C. calves expecially took stress better and do did P.I. (less sickness).

Used Haemopilus Somnus Bacterin for ITEME/IBR ($1.40/head).
Recommends maybe using something for ITEME as part of the program.

_ Calves predominately herefore with some crossbreds.

Was hesitant as to whether the extra price was worth while. After treating some sick calves and having no trouble with the preconditioned calves thinks they are worthwhile and would buy them again.

_ Only buy P.I. and P.C. if have ITEME booster. Vaccinated for ITEME-SONNAGEN. Do not see much gain in weaning. Was indicated he though the glover (?) gains of the P.C. calves were due to the fact that they were straight hereford compared to the crossbred P.I. calves.

_ Worth $15 extra/calf - would buy P.C. calves again. Less health problems with P.C. calves.

_ All in favor of program but would like a list of owners with preconditioned calves prior to sales. Would like opportunity to purchase direct.

Comments: From Edmonton, December 10, 1982.

- I think this program is excellent. There were probably fewer problems this winter because of the good weather. But these conditioned calves went on feed as soon as I got them home. I have fed cattle for about 14 years and think it is worth the extra cost when buying calves.

- I was pleased with preconditioned calves because of very little health problems and adapting to feed immediately. I have never purchased any preimmunized calves and can't see much advantage to this program because most of the problems seem to come from the stress factor at weaning time.

I believe the preconditioning program is worthwhile and will probably buy more next year.

- Calves bought direct from ranch seem to have less health problems but there is still a problem getting them to eat and drink.

- After having the calves on feed for 6 weeks we still haven't had to give a single calf a needle for anything. We have just as many calves that weren't preconditioned, and no problems. One of these calves had gone through the yards to our place. It just seems to have been a good winter for the calves; not too cold. I do believe that the 10th of December is too late for a sale to tell the difference because in this part of the country most calves have been on feed for at least 3 weeks or longer. But it does tell a person in another year whose calves are the best. Another year I wouldn't buy from one contributor because the calves developed ringworm and took longer to start to show results of feeding them.

- Very good program - worth the 6¢/lb more that I paid. No need to treat any of the steers.

- These green and white tag calves appeared to settle down and start feeding. The first 2-3 days the comparison calves were distressed as long hauled (by truck) from Kamloops, B.C. Also took longer to settle down and start gaining. I feel these late purchased calves, December 1982, are an advantage over earlier bought calves as they have been weaned for some time and not the extra stress to cope with.

  I feel this program a definite help to feedlot man as work and worry (treating and losses, and expenses) are greatly reduced.

- All calves seem to be doing remarkably well. The preconditioned when sick, I believe recovered faster, however the stockyards handle the smaller calves to rough (e.g.) whipping across eyes, etc. and placing too many calves in one pen. The calves bough direct across country are not exposed to various bugs that were picked up when put through stockyards.

- I think the sale should have been held about November 1. Most of the calves would have been weaned and partially preconditioned anyway by December 10. I like the idea of no horns.

Comments: Grande Prairie, December 6, 1982

- Compared to calves on my farm when I brought these home, condition was similar. The day after I got the preconditioned calves home they were completely settled; eating, drinking, chewing cud. I haven't had any sickness in any of my cattle except one case of minor bloat of my own.

- We are very happy with the performance of the preimmunized calves. Pull rate was 25%, repeats 6%, dead 2%. They settled down very well, even though they did not look very good coming off truck. Calves from too many different owners in one load. But surprisingly they did very well compared to some other long haul auction market calves with 75% pull rate and 25% repeats, dead 4%.

Comments: Ponoka, December 4, 1982

- All the comparison calves were pre-weaned but had some trouble with coughing but cleared up right away. After 6 years of buying calves pre-conditioned calves are alot less trouble and seem to start gaining right away.

- This lot of cattle started on feed good and give very little trouble. The main reason we buy these preconditioned calves is to get away from horns and nuts.

- The preconditioned cattle are excellent but sometimes you get calves that were sick while being conditioned. These calves are not completely over it when they were sold. When these calves arrive they are in their relaps for probably two to three days. Mortality rate is extreme.

- This group is very different from the first group bought in November 6, 1982. They did not adjust very quickly. There are about 10-15 steers that have been sick but not treatable. They are what I would call poor. The ear numbers are in the range of those treated. I have my doubts that these cattle have been properly posted on the program. The first group we had no trouble whatsoever. The second group was nothing but trouble. The shipping, holding conditions and feed and water are all the same in this case. I would be very reluctant to buy cattle from these Ranches again.

- The few steer calves purchased this year gave less trouble, percentage wise, than unpreconditioned calves I have purchased in past years. Four calves I purchased on Dec. 4/82, all from the same owner, were of poor health for the first few weeks. Judging by their appearance (wet and mucky) I would contribute their condition to over-crowding when they were shipped to the auction market. For the few cents a pound difference, preconditioned calves were an excellent choice in the fall of 1982.

- I am well pleased with the calves. They went on feed real good, after they got rested up, my biggest concern is that the dehorning is done very poorly. Did they ever consider de-worming the calves. I hope they keep this preconditioning program going. It would be nice if we could get the certificate sheets or copies of them for the calves we buy.

Comments: Ponoka, November 6, 1982

- Cattle went on feed very quickly. None were sick and none were treated or worked. I feel they were worth the extra few cents to get cattle in this condition.

- This is second year. The first year, results were so good he bought again this year. Three years ago bought but got stuck with a lot of dealer cattle. Was finally told by another buyer what pens were dealer pens and not to buy those calves when they come into the ring. Had a lot of sick calves from the non-preconditioned ones bought in 1980.

- In the fall of 1981, we purchased 72 head from the November Ponoka sale. These cattle were all preimmunized and arrived here in perfect condition and we only treated two animals. (These animals arrived by truck). This fall we purchased 56 head and were very disappointed in the quality and in the condition upon arrival. (These animals came by rail).

- This is the first preconditioned and preimmunized calves I have had. I am pleased with performance of the calves especially the preconditioned calves. They all went on feed much quicker than any calves I ever had before. I had to unload them at a neighbors who had scales, so weighed them off the truck, 7% shrink, not able to weigh them at six weeks. I'm sure they gained weight in the first month. Some of the calves are not dehorned the best. I hope this program is continued as I had less trouble this year than other years. Ready to buy next fall if the price is right.